

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART
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**MASTERPIECES OF MANUSCRIPT ILLUMINATION
TO BE EXHIBITED IN ART MUSEUM'S ROTUNDA**

*Special to
Baltimore Sun
+ Walters Art
Gallery, telling
specifically
about*

Nov '64
A special exhibition at The Cleveland Museum of Art complements five lectures on medieval illuminated books and will go on view Tuesday, March 17 in the Rotunda and Gallery One of the Cleveland Museum. The exhibit, **TWELVE MASTERPIECES OF MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE BOOK ILLUMINATION**, closes April 19. *Miner lectures*

Between March 31 and April 5 Dorothy Miner, Librarian and Keeper of Manuscripts at the Walters Art Gallery, will deliver a series of five lectures on the field of medieval book illumination.

Gospel books, Bibles, Missals, Hours of the Virgin, a Psalter and a Triumph of Petrarch dating from the tenth through the fifteenth centuries, will be displayed. Five are from the Cleveland collection and seven are lent by the Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore, Md. Each displays a peak in book design, decoration and illustration and each reflects the patronage and usage of its period.

The exhibit introduces a new Museum acquisition, the Hours of Charles the Noble which, with the Gotha Missal and the Hours of Ferdinand V and Isabella of Spain, form the unique core of a manuscript collection that has few equals in this country.

The newly purchased manuscript was executed in Paris about 1410 as a private devotional book for Charles III (1361-1425), King of Navarre, also Count of Evreux and called Charles the Noble. Charles' coat of arms are pictured throughout the Book. It is widely acclaimed for its beauty and well-known to scholars. The miniatures in it were painted by Zebo da Firenze, an Italian painter working in Paris, and the Egerton Master from France.

Zebo, whose technique combined Italian and Northern manuscript inventions, is an outstanding example of the cross-current of early 15th century styles found in Paris. For the Hours of Charles the Noble, which he signed, Zebo painted historiated initials,

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full page miniatures and heavily foliated borders around all the Book's miniatures, including those painted by the Egerton Master.

The latter is a master at vivid narrative, portrayed in French style with strong Netherlandish elements. He possesses a keen dramatic sense and an ability to convey distance in landscape by atmospheric perspective and stippled brush technique.

Charles' Book of Hours, in addition to being devotional, was also meant to amuse the aristocratic owner with marginal grotesques and drolleries which may be linked to medieval moralistic stories. Sly forms -- half-human, half-animal -- intermingle with foliage, flowers and fruits in a fantastic design.

The pages of the manuscript will be turned every Tuesday and Friday for the duration of the exhibition.

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